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Date: Wednesday, August 24, 2005To: Examiner : Nathaniel C. CHUKWURAH Group Art Unit: 3721Firm/Company: United States Patent and Trademark OfficeFax Number: 571-273-8300From: Robert J. Schneider, Reg. No. 27,383 Matter Number: 1715861Serial No. U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No. 10/500,808 Extension: 3919

Comments:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION ATTACHED.

Robert J. Schneider

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U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No. 10/500,808
Attorney Docket No. 1715861

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)	Examiner:	Nathaniel C. Chukwurah
Kunio Ishizaki)	Group Art Unit:	3721
International Appln. No. PCT/JP03/00202)	Confirmation No.:	6995
Serial No.: 10/500,808)		
Filing Date: July 7, 2004)		
For: STAPLER)		

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FILED VIA FACSIMILE TO 571-273-8300
Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Greetings:

The following is filed in timely response to the non-final Office Action mailed on May 25, 2005, wherein the Examiner:

1. Rejected Claims 1-12 under Section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter.
2. Rejected Claims 1-3 and 6 under Section 102(b), as anticipated by Akizawa, U.S. Patent No. 5,009,355.
3. Found Claims 4-5 and 7-12 allowable if rewritten to overcome the Section 112 rejection and to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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The following amendments and remarks are submitted in response.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.